

Mayor's Message

September 2009

One of my favorite things to do this time of year is to walk around my yard to see the flowers in full bloom. There is a very tall flag pole in front of my home that I like to watch from my porch at night and enjoy the gentle wave of the U. S. flag with the spotlights shining on it. Another past time I look forward to is tinkering in my garage with projects. Home is a wonderful place to be and I look forward to spending time with my family there. What images come to your mind when you think of your home? We all have unique visions of home and how we anticipate spending time there.

Recently a study was completed in our City that reviewed what housing opportunities are available. We learned that 69% of the housing units in the City are owner-occupied and the remaining 31% are occupied by renters. The average household in Murray is occupied by 2.7 people and 53% of residents have lived in their homes for nine or more years. We discovered that 61% of the dwellings were constructed prior to 1980. That number tells us that we have older housing stock that may need more attention to keep it viable for the owners.

Why did we do a study? Neighborhoods and people who live here are what give our City its personality and core strength. We also are looking for ways to help residents keep their homes secure and maintained as the homes age. The information gathered in this study will help us set goals and focus on keeping all types of homes and neighborhoods viable for many years to come. One of our goals is to increase homeownership opportunities for those with lower to moderate incomes. We are currently working toward establishing a program to help with down-payment and closing cost assistance for individuals and families seeking to buy a home. Through our Community Development Block Grant funding we are investigating the options to form programs to strengthen housing in our community. We will continue to partner with organizations to help Murray residents with a down payment assistance program, housing counseling, affordable housing development and administering a housing rehabilitation program.

Having a place to call home is a need we all share. I am hopeful that having these programs available will help many more people enjoy the dream of homeownership. Regardless of the type of housing we chose, there is nothing better than knowing we have a safe, secure, well-maintained home to enjoy throughout our lives. I would like see us help make that dream a reality for more people.